

Calendar No. 1121

91st CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

REPORT
No. 91-1110

CONFERRING U.S. CITIZENSHIP POSTHUMOUSLY UPON S. SGT. RYUZO SOMMA

AUGUST 12 (legislative day, AUGUST 11), 1970.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. EASTLAND, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 13997]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 13997) to confer U.S. citizenship posthumously upon S. Sgt. Ryuzo Somma, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of the bill is to confer U.S. citizenship posthumously upon S. Sgt. Ryuzo Somma.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

S. Sgt. Ryuzo Somma, born September 21, 1946, was a native of Japan who entered the United States for permanent residence on October 11, 1958, on the basis of a visa petition filed in his behalf by his stepfather, a citizen of the United States. He was inducted into the U.S. Army on September 19, 1966, and served honorably until his death in Vietnam on March 4, 1969. Sergeant Somma's mother was naturalized in 1969, and she and her husband state that the young man's greatest wish was to become a citizen of the United States.

A letter, with attached memorandum, dated March 9, 1970, to the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Repre-

sentatives from the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization with reference to the case, reads as follows:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE,
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER,
Washington, D.C., March 9, 1970.

HON. EMANUEL CELLER,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In response to your request for a report relative to the bill (H.R. 13997) for the relief of S. Sgt. Ryuzo Somma, there is attached a memorandum of information concerning the beneficiary.

The bill would confer U.S. citizenship posthumously upon the beneficiary as of March 4, 1969.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND F. FARRELL, *Commissioner.*

MEMORANDUM OF INFORMATION FROM IMMIGRATION AND
NATURALIZATION SERVICE FILES RE H.R. 13997

Information concerning this case was furnished by Mrs. Yoko Somma, the beneficiary's mother.

The beneficiary, Ryuzo Somma, a native and citizen of Japan, was born on September 21, 1946. He entered the United States for permanent residence on October 11, 1958, on the basis of a petition filed in his behalf by his stepfather, Pasquale Somma, a U.S. citizen. The beneficiary was inducted into the U.S. Army on September 19, 1966. He was subsequently sent to Vietnam and on March 4, 1969, was killed in action. He is buried in Pinelawn National Cemetery, Suffolk County, N.Y. At the time of death he held the rank of staff sergeant and had been awarded two Bronze Star medals and a Purple Heart.

The interested party, Yoko Somma, nee Kitamura, was born in Japan on March 31, 1919. Her first marriage on May 18, 1945, to Masashi Kato, a native of Japan, was terminated by divorce on June 11, 1952. The beneficiary was the only issue of this marriage. She was thereafter married on December 21, 1953, to Pasquale Somma, a native-born U.S. citizen. They reside in Medford, N.Y., with their two American-born children, ages 9 and 10 years. Mrs. Somma entered the United States for permanent residence on October 11, 1958, and became a naturalized U.S. citizen on June 6, 1969. She is a housewife. Her spouse, a merchant seaman for about 19 years, earns about \$8,000 a year. Their assets approximate \$30,000.

Mrs. Somma stated that it had been her son's wish to become a U.S. citizen and that he planned to apply for citizenship after leaving the combat area. She indicated that making the beneficiary a citizen posthumously would partially fulfill this wish.

Congressman Otis G. Pike, the author of the bill, submitted the following statement in support of the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives:

It was the dearest wish of Sgt. Ryuzo Somma, of Medford, N.Y., to apply for American citizenship as soon as he was old enough, but when he came of age he was serving this country in Vietnam, and was killed in action on March 4, 1969, before he could complete his tour of duty and come home to start proceedings.

His Japanese parents were divorced, and when his mother married Mr. Pasquale Somma, an American serviceman stationed in Japan, Mr. Somma was designated his father under Japanese law, but this did not confer dual citizenship on him. They brought Ryuzo to this country when he was 12 years old, and he loved his new friends, his new school, his new neighbors, his new town, but most of all his new country, so well he reenlisted following his first tour of duty in Vietnam winning two Bronze Star medals and a Purple Heart. At the time of his death at 22, he had achieved the rank of staff sergeant.

He cannot realize his dream now, but we can realize it for him, and I would deeply appreciate favorable action by the House Judiciary Committee on my H.R. 13997 as a very small return for the absolute devotion he gave to his adopted country.

The committee, after consideration of all the facts in the case, is of the opinion that the bill (H.R. 13997) should be enacted.

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THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS TO THE PRESENT TIME

BY
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AND
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NEW YORK
THE CENTURY COMPANY
1900